

28 SEP 1981

FILE *See 22*

MEMORANDUM FOR: Deputy Director of Central Intelligence

VIA: Deputy Director for Administration

FROM:
Director of Security

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SUBJECT: The SIGNA Society

1. President of the SIGNA Society, has expressed appreciation for your acceptance of his invitation to address his organization in the auditorium at 5:00 p.m. on Thursday, 1 October 1981. The SIGNA Society is an organization composed primarily of retired Security Officers and number approximately 250 members. It is holding its eighth annual convention during 1-2 October 1981 at the Tyson's Corner Westpark Hotel, and members are convening here from throughout the United States.

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2. The SIGNA Society was established in April 1970 in order (1) to promote fraternal fellowship, sociability, loyalty and good will among its members, and (2) to bring social, educational, and cultural entertainment to its members, their families, and friends. The charter indicates that SIGNA is a nonprofit, nonpolitical organization founded by retired Agency employees, does not promote or sponsor any causes, and has no relationship whatsoever with its former employer. SIGNA is very supportive of the Agency, and as I observe the group, all tenaciously defend the organization in both private and public occasions. In this context, you might wish to provide your insight as to the role of the Intelligence alumnus, and the ways which Agency retirees might properly and correctly help the Agency without generating unfair criticism from the news media.

3. Many of those in the audience have been involved in the investigative process and are keenly aware of recent publicity which was quite critical of our personnel

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security screening process. I leave it to your good judgment as to whether it is appropriate to touch upon the role of the Office of Security in this important area. Some SIGNA members have been out of the intelligence business for a few years, and it might also prove useful if you could indicate, in broad terms, how things have and are changing as the Intelligence Community is preparing to meet the new challenges of the 1980s.

4. Mr. John McMahon, Director of the National Foreign Assessment Center, has kindly consented to address the SIGNA Society, and he is scheduled to immediately precede you from 4:30 to 5:00 p.m. on 1 October 1981. Mr. McMahon is very well-known to a large number of SIGNA members who had dealings with him through the years, when he served in responsible positions in DDS&T, DDA, DDO, and now NFAC. Mr. McMahon is in a unique position to present his personal views and experience in dealing with Office of Security representatives on technical, operational, and analytical programs.

5. I believe that you will have an extremely friendly audience, and I know they are looking forward to your presentation.



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